

# Governor Quinn's Comprehensive Energy Strategy

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## **PROTECTING CONSUMERS, CREATING JOBS AND DELIVERING CLEAN, RELIABLE ENERGY**

Illinois deserves affordable, efficient, reliable and clean energy that protects consumers and creates jobs. We must act now to ensure we have the energy resources to fuel our economic recovery for today and tomorrow. With a fleet of aging and inefficient coal plants, fueled primarily with coal from the western United States, and a state law requiring that 25 percent of our energy be renewable by 2025, we must continue changing the way we produce, distribute and consume energy in Illinois.

### **PROTECTING CONSUMERS BY MAINTAINING STABLE ENERGY BILLS**

Illinois must modernize, but not eliminate, its regulatory framework to ensure investments that benefit consumers. The plan makes changes to the Illinois Public Utilities Act that will:

- Allow the energy efficiency portfolio to cover larger improvements. Current law requires a tight timetable for projects that hinders large improvements such as new construction and major overhauls of building systems.
- Establish Illinois Commerce Commission review and approval of new and retrofitted clean coal projects. Under current law there is no process to build non-utility electric generation projects. As a result, the General Assembly has been called upon to approve rates, rather than the more appropriately-suited ICC.
- Allow consumers with smart meters to choose effective, real time pricing to save on energy bills.
- Define Smart Grid investments and ensure consumer privacy and that data from Smart Grid will benefit consumers. The Governor's plan guarantees that consumers, not JUST the utility companies, benefit from any electric grid upgrades by defining the kinds of upgrades that will benefit consumers and ensure job creation.

### **CREATING JOBS BY DIVERSIFYING OUR ENERGY POLICY**

Major gaps prevent current Illinois energy policy from reaching its full job creation potential. The following legislative proposals will put more people to work by:

#### **HB 1422 (Rep. Elaine Nekritz)**

- Require the Illinois Power Agency (IPA) to procure energy efficiency as well as power. This would allow the IPA to offset the purchase of electricity by "buying" reductions in electricity consumption.

#### **HB 1913 (Rep. Karen May)**

- Strengthen Illinois net metering policy to promote distributed generation - systems where electric power is generated at various locations near the point of use like factories, residences, office and apartment buildings, and excess energy may be sold to the grid.

#### **HB 1943 (Rep. Ann Williams)**

- Add distributed generation to the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS).

#### **HB 3493 (Rep. Frank Mautino)**

- Link the Utility and Alternative Retail Electric Supplier (ARES) RPS into a single initiative to create certainty.
- Extend the Illinois preference and solidify long term contracts for renewables.

Illinois law must encourage more energy efficiency, distributed generation, electric vehicles, and renewable energy by clarifying these laws:

#### **Illinois Power Agency Act**

- Solidify IPA authority to procure efficiency when it is cheaper than buying power.
- Support IPA ability to procure least cost, renewable generation through power purchase agreements.
- Ensures that IPA and the Illinois Finance Authority can jointly finance new clean energy projects.
- Remove barriers to effective IPA administration.

#### **Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Act**

- Allow DCEO to support electric vehicles, combined heat and power, geothermal and economic development projects within existing, non-general revenue fund budgets.

**These initiatives will serve as an important economic engine for our entire state while protecting consumers and creating jobs by promoting homegrown, clean, reliable energy.**